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June 12, 2014

PRESS RELEASE

Nigeria Placed on the Port Security Advisory

The United States Government has imposed Conditions of Entry (COE) on vessels originating or calling from Nigerian ports, which require these vessels to meet certain security measures prior to entering U.S. ports. Twenty-two port facilities in Nigeria are, however, exempted from the COE, as they have been found to have adequate security measures in place.

The U.S. Coast Guard has worked cooperatively with the Government of Nigeria to identify and address port security deficiencies observed during assessments of numerous facilities during the past six years. Based on these assessments, it has determined that Nigerian ports have not fully implemented the provisions of the International Ship and Port Security (ISPS) Code, the primary international security standard, and do not have effective anti-terrorism measures in place. Twenty two Nigerian port facilities have demonstrated effective anti-terrorism measures and will not be subject to additional security precautions.

The COE are not trade sanctions and do not ban Nigerian ships from entering U.S. ports. It does require ships, however, to take certain additional security-related measures while at non-exempt Nigerian port facilities, which will be verified by U.S. Coast Guard port security personnel prior to entering U.S. ports. The COE has no impact on shipping traffic entering Nigerian waters and/or berthing at its ports; it deals only with shipping traffic departing Nigerian ports that is destined for the United States.

The clear delineation of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) as the Designated Authority for implementation of the ISPS code was a positive step, and the United States is aware of NIMASA's efforts to improve its oversight of Nigeria's port facilities. The U.S. Coast Guard will continue to consult with the Government of Nigeria with the goal of achieving full ISPS Code compliance, and the removal of the Conditions of Entry.

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